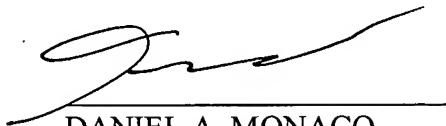


REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are currently pending in the application. Certain claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and to better conform to US practice. The specification has been amended to add headings. An Abstract, substantially identical to the abstract in the international application, has been inserted into the specification. No new matter has been added to the application. Entry of the Preliminary Amendment and an early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a method for the deactivation and/or destruction of hazardous materials such as chemical or biological agents. The invention further relates to apparatus for treating hazardous material and for decontaminating items that may have come into contact with it, the apparatus comprising a treatment vessel or chamber and a light source capable of irradiating a catalyst within the treatment vessel or chamber with a predetermined wavelength of light.